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Cultural Resources Management

CRM BULLETIN

A National Park Service Technical Bulletin

PRESERVING CULTURAL AND HISTORIC LANDSCAPES: DEVELOPING STANDARDS

Robert Z. Melnick, ASLA

Introduction and Overview

At last count, the National Park Service is made up of 320 units, of which approximately two-thirds are categorized under some form of historical designation. Each of these historical units has a setting or landscape ranging from a grand vista to a small lawn or garden. We in the Park Service have been aware of these landscapes for quite some time, but only recently have we begun focusing our attention on the many elements that comprise (either conspicuously or subtly) those landscapes in which we work.

While the Park Service has been engaged for many years in the preservation of historic structures, we have not given the same attention to cultural and historic landscapes. True, in our efforts with these structures, we have considered, in various degrees, scenes, vistas, views, and historic grounds reports. However, all of these are merely components of the larger landscape, and it is important that the Park Service now begin to address itself to the management of its diverse cultural and historic landscapes.

In many ways, dealing with landscapes presents problems similar to those dealing with structures. In most cases, however, landscapes are more complicated than structures, and present more variables in their management and preservation. A major difference between the two is the intrinsic dynamic nature of a landscape, as opposed to the more static qualities of a structure. It is necessary to envision and manage landscapes as whole entities, which often encompass such elements as landforms, plant materials, and location of structures. Landscapes, as well as those sites associated with specific structures, may be important cultural and historic resources to be carefully managed and preserved.

The standards which are presented below represent only one section of an on-going project in this area. Before one can implement these standards, it is crucial to identify and evaluate the landscapes under discussion. Through this process, it will be possible to ascertain which landscapes are significant enough to warrant preservation-oriented management, and which are not. These two procedural steps, identification and evaluation, are currently being developed as one component in the need to critically view the Park Service's role in cultural and historic landscape preservation. The standards presented here are intended to be applied only after appropriate and significant landscapes have been identified and evaluated.

Definitions

Large landscape areas within the National Parks may be broadly classified under two categories: natural landscapes and cultural landscapes. Natural landscapes include all of those

areas which, although protected or managed through human decisions, are basically in their natural state. These would include so-called wilderness areas, mountain meadows, and scenic overlooks. Although these places are clearly not free from human influence, they are preserved or maintained in a state which replicates or supports natural ecological systems as closely as possible. These natural landscapes are not within the subject or scope of this discussion.

The second category has been termed cultural landscapes. These areas clearly represent or reflect the patterns of settlement or use of the landscape, as well as the continuum and evolution of cultural attitudes, norms, and values towards the land. It may be said that these areas, as opposed to natural landscapes, are clearly human-influenced and manipulated. Nevertheless, cultural landscapes are formed, for the most part,

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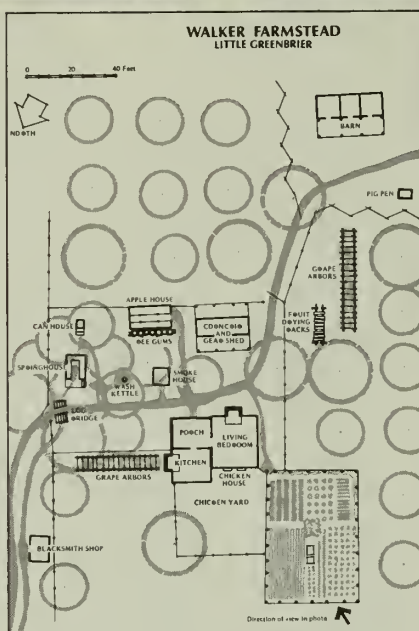
BUFFALO NATIONAL RIVER, ARKANSAS.
A good example of a cultural landscape is provided by the continuum of farming seen here in Richland Valley. One proposal for this area entails the use of scenic easements to preserve the significant features of the landscape while maintaining private ownership. (NPS photo)



of the same fabric and material which makes up natural areas: landforms, trees, shrubs, sky, mountains, plains, rivers, streams, and weather patterns, to name but a few. Cultural landscapes are also shaped somewhat by ecological processes and events beyond the control of human managers. However, they exhibit one important difference from natural landscapes: cultural landscapes visibly portray man's lasting impact on the land, in a variety of forms.

There is a further breakdown of the cultural landscape category--historic landscapes. These are cultural landscapes which are strongly associated with a particular person or event of historical significance. Such might include a battlefield, a treaty site, or a former President's personal garden. Designed landscapes, such as gardens or parks, that are associated with important landscape architects or vernacular designers are also included in the category of historic landscapes.

Historic landscapes are associated with a specific date, time, or person. Generally, their management should be stricter than the management of cultural landscapes which are more representative than specific. It may often be necessary in a historic landscape to duplicate plant materials exactly, while plant materials in a cultural landscape may be chosen for such characteristic qualities as color, shape, and massing that approximate the original material in the landscape. Management of cultural landscapes would be aimed at preserving the accurate historic materials as nearly as possible. In both cases, the integrity of the landscape is an overriding factor in management preservation decisions.



Potential Standards of General Treatment and Use for Cultural and Historic Landscape Preservation

The following proposals for standards of general treatment and use for cultural and historic landscape preservation are built upon the operational definitions offered above. They are part of the on-going process of understanding and controlling our cultural landscape, and are not intended to be an inclusive means to the preservation of these areas of national heritage. Standards for cultural landscapes apply to historic landscapes as well, except where stricter treatment is required. In those instances, an additional statement has been added for historic landscapes.



(Above) DUMBARTON OAKS PARK, WASHINGTON, D.C. This park, designed by Beatrix Jones Farrand, lies adjacent to private lands. The informal walkway and the small ponds and waterfalls created by the dams lend this historic landscape a naturalistic air typical of landscapes designed in the first part of this century.

(Upper left) A view of the garden, Walker Family Homestead, Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This National Park Service photograph taken in 1936, shows the garden in relation to the house and the enveloping mountain hollow. The schematic drawing, immediately to the left, portrays the Walker Farmstead at its height of productivity. Most of these features no longer exist. Still extant are the house, corncrib, and springhouse.

1. Every reasonable effort shall be made to allow for uses for the landscape which have no, or minimal adverse effect upon the landscape. With historic landscapes, these uses shall require no or minimal alteration to the landscape, and no permanent change which alters the historic integrity of the landscape.

2. Use of the landscape shall be regulated to eliminate or prevent both immediate and long-range damage to any aspects, elements, or sections of the landscape which may drastically alter its cultural milieu. With historic landscapes, this regulation shall be especial-

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AMERICAN ROCK ART: A FORGOTTEN RESOURCE

Joseph J. Snyder

Rock Art, as it is most commonly known, takes essentially two forms: petroglyphs (from the Greek for rock + carving) pecked into a rock surface, and pictographs (from the Greek for picture + writing) painted onto a rock surface. These delicate forms of expression are found throughout the world, but in North America the greatest concentrations are visible on the dry rock surfaces of the mountainous West. Indeed, vast numbers of this spectacular art are found on public lands, where they must be protected, and when possible, interpreted for the visitor.

Rock art is the most fragile of our exposed cultural resources, much easier to strip off and sell, or vandalize, than a conventional archeological site where some hard digging or earth moving is necessary. After checking with a number of Federal agencies, the author found no one with any firm idea of how many petroglyphs and pictographs are in existence here. Estimates range from several hundred thousand to tens of millions. Public land managers have long been aware of the problems involved in the preservation of these fragile resources. However, the resources are so scattered that effective protection is often all but impossible.

Interpretation efforts have also been hampered by a lack of academic agreement on the importance and meaning of the prehistoric symbols, and in some cases historic depictions, grouped under the rubric of "rock art." Some scholars regard petroglyphs and pictographs as a form of information storage, while another group views them as artistic products within a local or regional cultural tradition. Matters have been made still worse by the long-standing disinclination of professional archeologists to get involved in the study.



Petroglyph panels at Three Rivers State Park, New Mexico.

At the November 1979 meetings of the American Anthropological Association in Cincinnati, Ohio, the first meeting of a professional group specifically oriented to the problems of studying, recording, and preserving these phenomena was held. This was the American Committee to Advance the Study of Petroglyphs and Pictographs, or ACASPP. ACASPP now has an executive committee and several dozen members, and is seeking funds for a major workshop to be held at Lava Beds National Monument in the late summer or early fall of 1980. The intent of this committee is to provide a professional base for studies and the coordination of efforts with existing organizations such as the

American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) and the Canadian Rock Art Research Associates (CRARA).

If you would like further information on the workshop or activities of ACASPP, please write to Dr. Benjamin K. Swartz, Jr., Department of Anthropology, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 47306. The telephone number is area code 317-285-5498 or 285-1931.

CRM

The author is a writer-editor with the Publications Division of the Service's Interpretive Design Center in Harpers Ferry, West Virginia.

STATUS OF THE TASK FORCE REPORT ON P.L. 95-341

Jackson W. Moore, Jr.

P.L. 95-341, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act of 1978, establishes as a Federal Government role the preservation of Native American traditional religions, along with a commitment to their perpetuation and practice. Section 2 of the act directed the President to conduct a study of agency laws, regulations, policies, and procedures which discourage Indian religious practices, and to report these findings to Congress with any recommendations for new legislation. To carry out this provision and to

solidify federal interest in Native American issues, an inter-agency task force, spearheaded by the Department of Interior, was assembled. Forrest J. Gerard, Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, was appointed chairman, and Suzan Shown Harjo, his Special Assistant for Legislation, was named coordinator. Public hearings and many months of data compilation, debate, and review resulted in a final report, entitled "American Indian Religious Act Report," which was transmitted to Congress by President Carter in August 1979.

At the initial April, 1979 meeting, Mr. Gerard outlined the projected approach of the task force. Public meetings with Native Americans were scheduled. The task force planned to divide into work groups to address individual issues, which would then be assembled into a draft report for review by Native American committees at a series of public hearings. A final report for submission to the Congress on behalf of the President was to have been compiled after: 1) consultation with the Native American

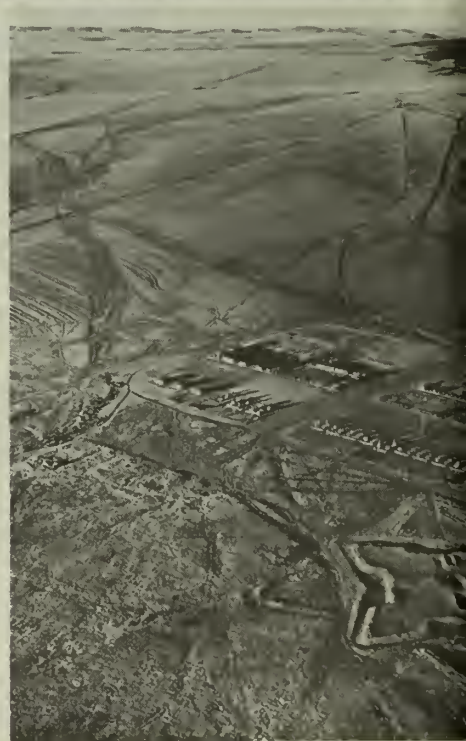
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(Right) FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, WYOMING. These two photographs show Fort Laramie at different periods of its existence: 1868 and 1959. First as a fur-trading post and then as a military post, Fort Laramie played an important role in the settlement of the Wyoming frontier. Its stature as an important historic site is increased by its setting in the open prairie of the region. The layout of the fort and all of its related buildings and other land uses represents a significant stage of control of the western reaches of the country.



(Above) GRANT-KOHR'S RANCH NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, MONTANA. This typical western ranchstead of the last century is owned and maintained by the Park Service in its entirety, including furnishings and farm equipment. It is a fine example of settlement and layout patterns representing a continuum of over 100 years.



(Above) FORT UNION NATIONAL MONUMENT, NEW MEXICO. This fort, dating from the mid-19 century, offers a good example of a cultural and historic landscape. The historical significance of the fort is tied to its remoteness and use in the landscape, while settlement and land use patterns are seen in the surrounding cultural landscape.

(Right) BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY, VIRGINIA. Shown is a view east from the Parkway over the Piedmont area. This parkway was designed as much for its scenic views as for its other qualities. The farming patterns of this valley contribute to the cultural landscape of the area. (1938 photo)



HISTORIC LANDSCAPES



(Left) VAL-KILL POND. ELEANOR ROOSEVELT NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, HYDE PARK, NEW YORK. This pond, created in 1926 on the site of Eleanor Roosevelt's home, is an example of a historic landscape associated with someone of national significance. The pond is part of one of the most recent additions to the National Park System. (Photo: Nancy Cook, c.1935. Courtesy of: Eleanor Roosevelt NHS, and Kane and Carruth, Landscape Architects.)



(Left) ACADIA NATIONAL PARK, MAINE. Consisting of more than 11,000 acres, Acadia National Park represents and expresses the point of interface between the natural landscape of the rocky, island coast of Maine, and the encroaching cultural landscape of the lobstering and fishing industries. The edge of the Park is interwoven with the surrounding cultural landscape, and the artifacts associated with its exhibited values and land use patterns.



(Left) CEMETERY, VICKSBURG NATIONAL MILITARY PARK, MISSISSIPPI. This cemetery, on the site of the Civil War battle at Vicksburg, commemorates the fallen dead. It is a vernacular designed landscape of historical significance.

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ly sensitive to topography, plant materials, surrounding views and vistas, and their historic contents and integrity.

3. The distinguishing qualities or character of the landscape, including but not limited to, walkways, significant vegetation, earthworks or forms, shall not be removed, destroyed, or altered in any manner which will negate the cultural value or resource of the landscape.

With historic landscapes, a compelling case shall be established for the removal or destruction of any historic material or distinctive landscape feature or element.

4. All landscapes shall be recognized as a product of their own time, as well as of an important cultural process. Alterations which destroy the authenticity of the place and the process of the place are prohibited. Furthermore, with historic landscapes, alterations, manipulations or transformations that have no historical basis are prohibited. This includes, but is not limited to, the introduction of historically inappropriate plant materials, paving, and fencing.

5. Changes which have taken place in the course of time may be further evidence of the cultural importance of a landscape. These changes shall be recognized for their importance and shall be respected.

With historic landscapes, these changes may have significance in their own right, and this significance, when appropriate to the major historical thrust of the landscape, shall be recognized and respected.

6. Distinctive stylistic features or examples of skilled craftsmanship shall, when possible, be treated with sensitivity and preserved.

With historic landscapes, these features shall be preserved in their original context and form. This shall be done for major design forms, as well for details with regard to intended form, size, and location of plant materials.

7. Deteriorated landscape features, such as walks, gazebos, trees and shrubs shall, whenever possible, be repaired rather than replaced. The operational control of such decisions and actions shall be the maintenance of the cultural integrity of the landscape. Where new material, either man-made or natural, is necessary, it shall in no way inhibit or impinge upon the integrity of the landscape.

With historic landscapes, repairs shall be executed in historically correct procedures. Where new material is necessary, it will match existing fabric in composition, color, design, texture, and, in the case of plant materials, will match the historic species.

8. The cleaning of any landscape structures shall be undertaken with

the gentlest means possible and only when such cleaning is required for preservation. Sandblasting, other cleaning methods that damage the historic materials or speed deterioration, and any other as-yet untested cleaning methods shall not be undertaken.

9. All treatment work that may affect surface or subsurface archeological resources shall be coordinated with an archeologist.

10. Contemporary design for alterations and additions to the landscape shall not be discouraged, when such alterations and additions do not significantly alter those features of the landscape that establish its cultural importance. Necessary, but not exclusive, considerations in this regard are plant massing, views, general landscape design, and contextual relationships.

With historic landscapes, such alterations or additions shall be discouraged when they will destroy significant historic, landscape, or cultural materials, especially with regards to contemporary plantings, and when such alterations and additions are not compatible with historic landscape features, such as plant color, massing, and design.

11. New additions or alterations to landscapes shall be done in such a manner that the essential form and integrity of the landscape is unimpaired. The essential form and integrity shall be defined, in this instance, as that aspect of

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Rights Fund and the American Indian Law Center, and 2) review by the federal agencies involved. However, because of time constraints, this sequence was altered.

From last April onwards, the various bureaus consulted Native Americans to assess the impacts their laws, regulations, and policies have on these groups. Task force representatives met with Native American spokesmen at ten widely-spaced geographic locations from Hawaii to North Carolina. Each meeting focused on issues as varied as: 1) prisoners' rights to practice traditional religions, 2) profanation and damage to religious paraphernalia during border inspections, 3) return of religious ob-

jects by museums, 4) disturbance of cemeteries, 5) access to sacred sites, 6) use and collection of natural products, 7) ceremonial and traditional use of animals and birds, and 8) Native traditions and customs in relation to educational and health practices.

July saw the first draft of the report. This was prepared, section-by-section, by the Native American Rights Fund and the Indian Law Center, under contract to the Office of Indian Affairs. It was reviewed by representatives of the National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, Fish and Wildlife Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service (IAS-Atlanta), Department of Energy, and the Forest Service. These Federal representatives discussed, debated, and recommended substantive changes.

The language of the report, like the Act itself, is essentially permissive, though strongly exhortive in tone. Without undercutting the decision-making responsibility of Federal land managers, it provides them with the latitude to "go the extra steps" in accommodating Native American traditional religious practices where doing so does not violate basic agency missions. Where legal and regulatory barriers exist, the report recommends that land managers seek amendments and/or new legislation to rectify the situation.

The National Park Service and the Fish and Wildlife Service have identified areas where accommodations to Native Americans can now be made, and identified other areas which might merit new legislative authority. This is partly because both agencies were already engaged

the landscape which most closely represents the cultural values and attitudes from which the landscape derives its significance.

With historic landscapes, this shall be especially so in the replacement of dead or severely damaged plant materials. In such cases as the replacement of plant materials is necessary, the new material shall be chosen for its mature properties which shall match the material being replaced.

12. All landscape maintenance procedures, such as pruning, clipping, planting details and fertilizing, shall be done under currently accepted professional standards. When in doubt, these procedures shall be carried out in a conservative manner.

13. Every reasonable effort shall be made to retain the appropriate cultural or historic use for the landscape, such as agriculture, orchards, woodlots, vegetable gardens and vineyards.

14. Necessary functional requirements, such as parking, pedestrian circulation, storm drainage, and lighting, shall be carried out with sensitivity to its impact upon the landscape. Screening shall be carried out with appropriate considerations of the impact of the screening, as well as the screened, element.

Conclusions

These proposals, as they now stand, represent the beginning stages in developing

guidelines and policies for the preservation of cultural and historic landscapes. At this point, several questions arise. Where do we go from here? Obviously, more detail is required in these standards. What are the specifics of landscape preservation? What about restoration, reconstruction, or adaptive re-use? How might such approaches be accomplished within the landscape? These questions are being addressed by some professionals of preservation. It is the application of the work by these individuals to the specific needs of the Park Service which needs further attention.

One area for future exploration is data collection that leads to responsible planning documents. Perception of significant values in the landscape is another area for development. As a continuation of the work presented here, evaluation techniques and criteria for

cultural and historic landscapes are currently under preparation.

What else needs to be done? It is important that this material be scrutinized and evaluated. Your comments and suggestions are welcomed. Please address all comments to: F. Ross Holland, Jr., Assistant Director for Cultural Resources, National Park Service.

CRA

The author is a Historical Landscape Architect, presently on leave from his faculty position in the Department of Landscape Architecture, Kansas State University. He is working with the Chief Historical Architect, National Park Service, on identification and evaluation procedures for cultural and historic landscapes in the National Parks. He is also a member of the Alliance for Historic Landscape Preservation.



MABRY MILL. BLUE RIDGE PARKWAY, NORTH CAROLINA-VIRGINIA. This mill, in an area whose land-use patterns date to the 1700's, is a good example of a type of cultural impact upon the landscape. Also extant within this area are log cabins; all dating from the same period.

in policy revision. The Fish and Wildlife Service has facilitated ceremonial gathering because of precedents set in Alaska subsistence issues, and because of Native exemptions to the Marine Mammal Protection Act. It has revised the regulatory manual for refuges in a manner reflecting the recommendations. The Bald Eagle and Golden Eagle Acts had earlier made surplus feathers and parts available to Native Americans, although the means of handling and the long lead-time between application and delivery remained a problem. Both of these issues have now been resolved. The Fish and Wildlife Service has also revised the procedures for disposing of surplus buffalo in ways which will benefit Native Americans.

It is too early to identify all of the ramifications which the Act and the task force report have genera-

ted. However, the effects of the hearings on the House and Senate bills which were transitional to what is now P.L. 96-95, the Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, were significant. During the hearings at Zuni Pueblo, representatives from several tribes strongly criticized proposed revised procedures for issuing antiquities permits in "Indian Country" without consulting Native Americans. They were also concerned about excavations of Native American resources on "off-reservation" lands. These concerns are partially mitigated in the Act of 1979.

Further ramifications can be seen in the review process for management and planning documents of several agencies, including the Park Service. Just as the implementation, in present form, of the environmental and historic preserva-

tion acts of 1966, 1969, and 1974 took several years to effect, so will this Act. The term "Native American consultation" will probably take its place in the planning and review lexicon alongside "NEPA 2(b)," "Section 102," etc. As was the case with these earlier laws, some interpretations will likely be made in the courtroom.

The Department of Energy has not developed a Native American policy. However, its Solicitor has advised departmental personnel to honor "interim" commitments given to former Assistant Secretary Gerrard. This document firmly locks Native American consultation on proposed projects into the environmental review process. In the event that religious values are clearly threatened, and no acceptable alternative is feasible, the initial decision will be resolve-

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ed by the Assistant Secretary for Environment rather than the program managers.

The Tennessee Valley Authority has also made consultation with Native Americans an integral part of the environmental review process. Like the DOE, the TVA presently bases its procedure on an "interim" commitment to Assistant Secretary Gerrard rather than a formal policy.

The Bureau of Land Management has also made some "informal, interim adjustments" but has not yet begun to develop policy. A workshop is scheduled in the spring for the purpose of identifying policy needs.

Since the Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service is not a land managing agency, it is primarily concerned with the guidance and technical assistance that it is mandated to provide other agencies. It is presently preparing a request to the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior for an opinion regarding archeological guidelines for the excavation of human remains.

The National Park Service is drafting a new and separate chapter of policies which deal with Native American issues. These drafts are now being reviewed in the Washington Office and will receive extensive field review before completion. The preparation of guidelines to implement Native American policies will

follow as soon as possible.

As a result of P.L. 95-341, action to accommodate and encourage Native American religious practices is being taken by some government agencies. It may be action which might not see fulfillment for several years, and when it does, it may see its greatest fulfillment in the court system. Nevertheless, the efforts which have been taken are positive, if controversial, and have certainly helped to move P.L. 95-341 a little farther down the road to rectifying long-term problems of Native Americans.

CEA

The author is Senior Staff Archeologist, Anthropology Division, Washington Office.

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We seek now a NEW CONSERVATION--one of people as well as land and resources, one of the metropolitan areas as well as of open country.

--Hubert H. Humphrey

PUBLIC BROADCASTING SYSTEM FEATURES NATIONAL PARK SERVICE PROJECT ON ODYSSEY

Odyssey is the first American television documentary series about people, past and present. It explores the diversity of human behavior and the anthropologists and archeologists who seek to understand it. Programs will be shown at 8 p.m. (Eastern Standard Time) on Sunday nights, and are scheduled to run from April 6 through June 22.

On June 1, "The Chaco Legacy" will discuss the complex Chaco pueblo culture, the extensive roadway system connecting outlying pueblos with the main Chaco Canyon pueblos, and the research being conducted at the Chaco Canyon National Monument by the Park Service and the University of New Mexico.

CEA

UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Three volumes of the Anthropology Division's series, "Publications in Archeology," presently are in the final phases of production and should be available for purchase by the general public by late summer of this year. The books are: Excavations of Mound 7, Gran Quivira National Monument, New Mexico, (Publications in Archeology 16), by Alden C. Hayes; Contributions to Gran Quivira Archeology, Gran Quivira National Monument, New Mexico, (Publications in Archeology 18), by Alden C. Hayes, et al.; Long House, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, (Publications in Archeology 7H, Wetherill Mesa Studies), by George S. Cattanach, Jr., et al.

Information on prices for these publications and ordering details will be provided in the CRM Bulletin when it becomes available from the U.S. Government Printing Office.

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